DARK HORSE COMICS®

19 june 93

INSIDER™

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS™

INTRODUCING *COMICS' GREATEST WORLD*

Dark Horse opens up a whole new universe, beginning with *X, Pit Bulls, Ghost,* and *Monster!*

STAR WARS

Tales of the Jedi strip continues with Part 4!

MANGA ART CONTEST

Winners announced!

SNEAK PREVIEW

- *Golden City — Week 4: Catalyst*

...AND MORE!

DARK HORSE COMICS

Arcadia — Week 1: X
cover art by
Frank Miller

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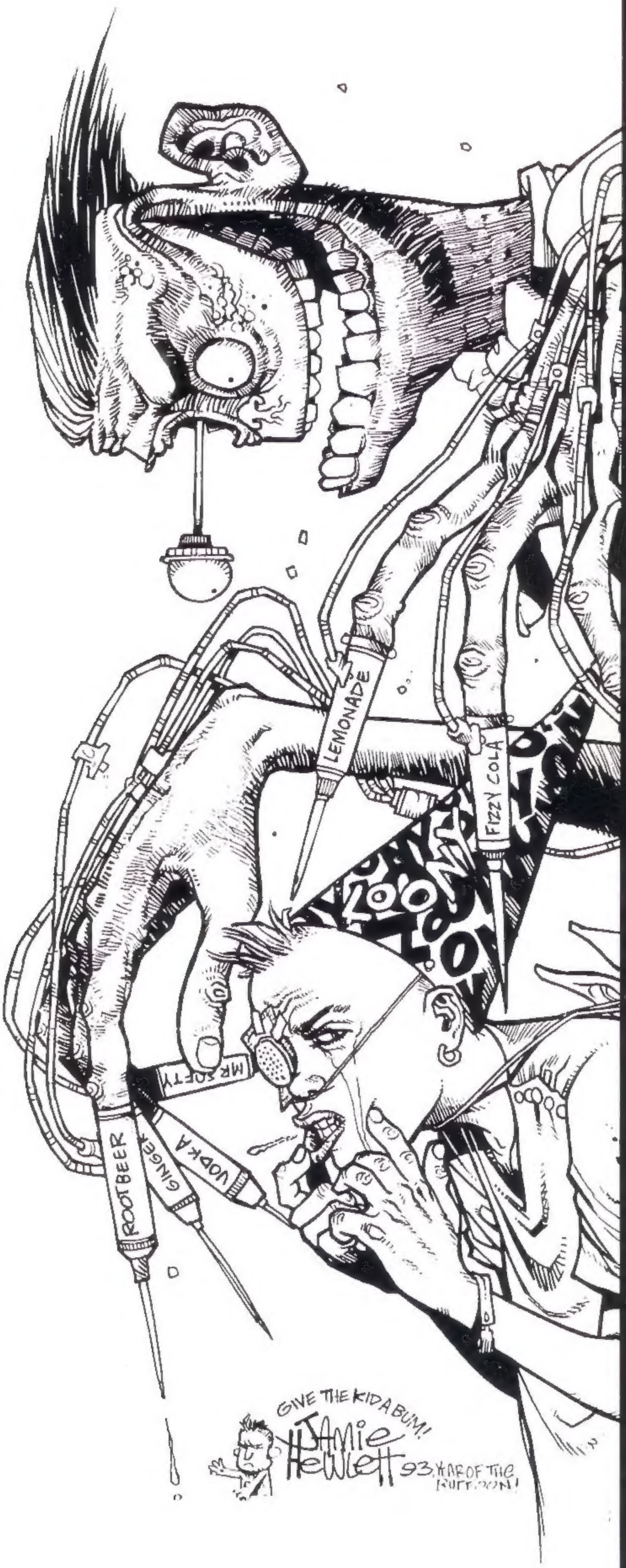

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FRANK MILLER FROM
ARCADIA — WEEK 1: X

INSIDE FRONT COVER ART
BY JAMIE HEWLETT
FROM *TANK GIRL II #1*

INSIDE BACK COVER ART
BY DAVE DORMAN
FROM *STEEL HARBOR —*
WEEK 1: BARB WIRE

EDITOR: KRIS YOUNG
PROOFREADER: SUZANNE TAYLOR
DESIGN & PRODUCTION: EGON SELBY,
EVELYN HARRIS

INTRODUCING
COMICS' GREATEST WORLD!!!

by John Dennett

Dark Horse Comics, home of the World's Greatest Comics, is storming the superhero genre this summer in the form of the sixteen-issue miniseries, *Comics' Greatest World*! The miniseries is the brainchild of a smoking team of Dark Horse Comics' finest: Mike Richardson, creative director Randy Stradley, managing editor Barbara Kesel, editorial coordinator Jerry Prosser, and editor/designer Chris Warner.

These five daring souls decided to try a unique approach to introducing *Comics' Greatest World* to you folks out there. Instead of just telling sixteen standard-issue origin stories, *CGW* will focus on events in four geographic areas in this world, and the effect they have on the key heroes and villains in our new superhero continuity. The environments were created from scratch so that each could have a unique and fully-developed personality or atmosphere without trying to mimic an existing location. They do, however, exist alongside real-world cities. "There's one major over-arcing story that ties all sixteen books together," explained Stradley. "Each location within our world is allotted four books, so within each four-issue stretch there's a smaller, more specific story and it all culminates in the last issue."

"When you have the opportunity to create fantastic characters," said Warner, "it also helps to create fantastic places for those characters to function in. We want to put these characters in a place that really allows them to function in the most powerful manner we can create."

The emphasis on a believable context for the new heroes was critical to the *CGW* team. "A lot of the most popular superhero work over the past few years has focused on revising or reviving existing superheroes so that their motivations and their environment become more believable for modern readers," said Prosser. "We've approached *Comics' Greatest World* from the other direction and said 'What kind of world creates superheroes and what sorts of people would they be?' and took it from there."

Despite the sequential numbering for the series, each individual book will be a #1 in its own way, premiering or debuting a character or group of characters by throwing readers headfirst into the private worlds of these heroes. "I think that each one of these

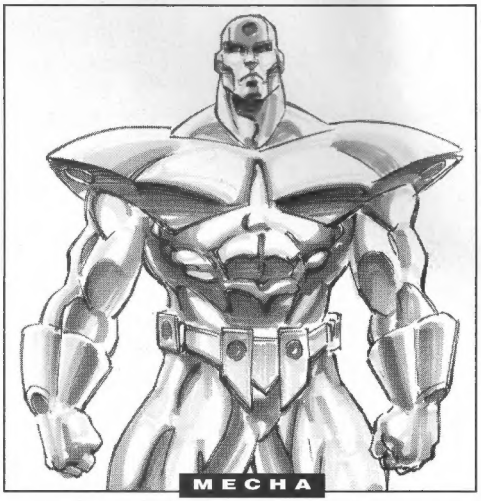
characters that we've built, rather than just having a 'cool' name and a 'cool' costume, has a particular edge or twist to them that makes them interesting as characters," said

Continued on pg 2

Continued from pg 1

Warner. "We're avoiding any characters that we feel don't really have that kind of depth to them."

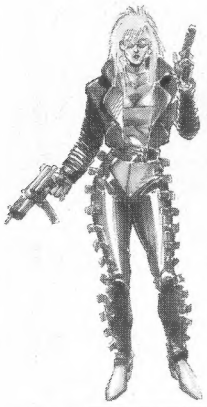
"We're playing to readers, not just collectors," Kesel added. "We wanted to create something we ourselves would enjoy being involved with. When both the characters and the environment have been developed enough to feel real, then the stories have a texture and life that can't be evoked through just surface gloss. We have more than exciting action poses surrounded by energy lines: we have substance to our stories, subtext that we hope will draw people in and satisfy even the most mature comics reader."



MECHA

But don't think that all this planning means that there's no room for input from you, the reader. "The response that we get from readers will determine to a great degree which characters will spin off into their own books," promised Warner.

"Some of the characters will go on to have their own books, and other characters will be peripheral or supporting characters within those books," explained Stradley, "or may only show up periodically. Dark Horse wants you to help us decide." The first week after the explosive conclusion to the miniseries, the first of these ongoing monthly titles will debut, and will be followed shortly by others.



BARB WIRE

While *CGW* more or less marks Dark Horse's first entry into the superhero sweepstakes in its seven years of publishing, by no means was it an afterthought. "Since we're all long-term fans of the genre," explained Warner, "this is something that Dark Horse had always planned to get involved with, but not until our company had the long-standing credibility as a publisher that could make its way without mining the same vein. We wanted to take our time, find our place, put together the people that we wanted to have create this thing, and then go for it."

Marketing director Ronnie Noize added, "*Comics' Greatest World* gives readers sixteen books over sixteen weeks featuring sixteen brand-new characters or teams for only sixteen bucks. We've also got the hottest artists in the business on these books, including Frank Miller, Adam Hughes, Walter Simonson, James O'Barr, and dozens more. No one else in the industry can claim to offer so much to their readers."

Mike Richardson put it another way: "I think these books will give people that electric charge they felt when they read their very first superhero comic. We've created something really exciting here."

WELCOME TO ARCADIA!

Dark Horse Comics, home of "The World's Greatest Comics," invites you to visit *Comics' Greatest World*™! Your ticket costs you sixteen bucks — that'll get you sixteen adventure-packed issues, sixteen pages each, for sixteen weeks this summer!

First stop on your tour: Arcadia. There are only two types of people in Arcadia: the merely corrupt, and the truly evil... and there's no telling who — or what — might crawl out of the sewers next!

ARCADIA TOUR SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 *X*
Shipping June 15
Page 4

WEEK 2 *PIT BULLS*
Shipping June 22
Page 5

WEEK 3 *GHOST*
Shipping June 29
Page 6

WEEK 4 *MONSTER*
Shipping July 6
Page 7

NEXT STOP ON YOUR TOUR: GOLDEN CITY. SCHEDULE WILL BE POSTED NEXT MONTH.

"X" character sketch by Chris Warner.

Featuring the creative talents of penciller

CHRIS WARNER and inker TIM BRADSTREET!

ONLY A BUCK!

$1.00 U.S., $1.25 Canada.
16 color pages in battle-action format, with cardstock, UV-coated, color cover.

Weekly. Shipping June 15, 1993.

Welcome to the first stop in your tour of *Comics' Greatest World* — Arcadia, a city where, if you don't play by the rules, you might be the next corpse. Larry Briggs found that out — right before his insides got sprayed all over the nice walls of his high-rise office. Now the law is looking for the man responsible, and the law in Arcadia is big, thick-skinned, and vicious. But *no one*'s going to find X until he wants to be found. And when that happens, *everyone*'s going to be sorry.

Written by: **Jerry Prosser** (*Aliens: Hive*)
Pencilled by: **Chris Warner** (*The Terminator: Tempest*)
Inked by: **Tim Bradstreet** (*Hard Looks*)
Color cover by: **Frank Miller** (*Sin City, Hard Boiled*)

PITBULLS™

COVER BY BOB McLEOD!

Featuring the creative talents of penciller

JOE PHILLIPS and inker **JOHN DELL!**

ONLY A BUCK!

$1.00 U.S., $1.25 Canada.
16 color pages in battle-action format, with cardstock, UV-coated, color cover.

Weekly. Shipping June 22, 1993.

ARCADIA — WEEK 2 PIT BULLS

You can train a dog to attack on command, to leap for the throat, to love the taste of blood. You can train a human the same way — that's what the government-sponsored Pit Bull Project was all about. But, even with the most extreme training, humans are less predictable than dogs. And instability can be… deadly.

The government knows that. That's why the Pit Bull Project got cancelled. But that only means the dogs don't have leashes anymore, and they only come out for special occasions.

One of those occasions just came up. The dogs are going out for a walk. Don't get in their way.

Written by: **Jerry Prosser** (*Aliens: Hive*)
Pencilled by: **Joe Phillips** (*Timber Wolf*)
Inked by: **John Dell** (*Timber Wolf*)
Color cover by: **Bob McLeod** (*The New Mutants*)

Ghost

COVER BY DAVE DORMAN!

ARCADIA — WEEK 3 GHOST

Someone brutally murdered Ghost, and she's not happy about it. She's an apparition with an attitude, a taste for revenge, and nothing to lose. Anyone who crosses her is likely to end up dead. That includes X — he makes the mistake of going after a man whose life Ghost wants for herself. He finds out the hard way that it's tough to crush the bones of someone who doesn't have any, it's tough to blow someone to bits when they have no substance, and it's tough to kill someone who's already dead.

He also finds out that Ghost has some nasty habits. And two of them are Colt .45s.

Written by: **Jerry Prosser** (*Aliens: Hive*)
Pencilled by: **Adam Hughes** (*Star Trek: Debt of Honor*)
Inked by: **Mark Farmer**
Color cover by: **Dave Dorman** (*Aliens: Tribes*)

Featuring the creative talents of
penciller
ADAM HUGHES
and
inker
MARK FARMER!

ONLY A BUCK!

$1.00 U.S., $1.25 Canada.
16 color pages in battle-action format, with cardstock, UV-coated, color cover.

Weekly. Shipping June 29, 1993.

MONSTER

Featuring the creative talents of

penciller
DEREK THOMPSON
and
inker
ANDE PARKS

ONLY A BUCK!

$1.00 U.S., $1.25 Canada.
16 color pages in battle-action format, with cardstock, UV-coated, color cover.

Weekly. Shipping July 6, 1993.

Life on the streets of Arcadia is rough enough, but *under* the streets, it's rougher than anyone could imagine — anyone human, that is! But the sewers are home to rats, refuse, renegades, and a monster… a monster of limitless strength and all-consuming anger… a monster who swats bullets away like mosquitoes and tosses two-hundred-pound men aside like bags of garbage. It doesn't mean to split the bags apart… usually. Just don't make the monster mad.

Written by: **Jerry Prosser** (*Aliens: Hive*)
Pencilled by: **Derek Thompson**
Inked by: **Ande Parks** (*Wonder Woman, Freaks' Amour*)
Color cover by: **Doug Mahnke** (*The Mask*)

SNEAK PREVIEW

If it's action you want, you've got it right here! *Golden City*, the second of four story arcs in *Comics' Greatest World*, comes to a bone-crushing crescendo in *Catalyst*. This issue features the super talents of writer **Barbara Kesel**, layout artist **Jan Duursema**, penciller **Damon Willis**, and inker **Rick Magyar**, with a knockout color cover by none other than **George Pérez**!

Editor's note: The art shown in this Sneak Preview is work in progress and consists of preliminary pencils only.

Comics' Greatest World, Golden City — Week 4: Catalyst ships August 3, 1993.

COLONIAL ALIENS™ MARINES

ALIENS: COLONIAL MARINES #6 (OF 12)

$2.50 U.S., $3.15 Canada.
32 color pages, painted cover.

Monthly. Shipping July 6, 1993.

The showdown on Bracken's World comes to a skull-crunching climax as Marines and colonists go toe-to-toe with the forces of the maniacal Bug-Men. And lest you think we would forgo plot development for the sake of action — Beliveau fesses up as to the identity of the enigmatic "father" of the Bug-Men! The plot is thickening quickly, folks, so don't miss this pivotal issue!

Written by: **Kelley Puckett** (*Batman Adventures*)
Layouts and inks by: **Paul Guinan** (*Heartbreakers, Hard Looks*)
Pencilled by: **Allen Nunis** (*Classic Star Wars*)
Painted cover by: **Joe Phillips**

ALIENS™ ROGUE

ALIENS: ROGUE #3 (OF 4)

$2.50 U.S., $3.15 Canada.
32 color pages, painted cover.

Monthly. Shipping June 29, 1993.

When a genetically engineered Alien refrains from attacking an injured Kray, it seems that Kleist's attempts to breed a "tame" Alien have finally paid off. Meanwhile, the Sci-Tech elite patrol are deployed to hunt down Palmer, who hopes to rescue Kray by way of the armory. The race for survival is accelerated, as Kleist's latest creation proves to be both highly motivated... and dangerously unpredictable.

Written by: **Ian Edginton** (*The Terminator: The Enemy Within*)
Illustrated by: **Will Simpson** (*Hellblazer*)
Painted cover by: **Will Simpson**

FRANKENSTEIN

UNIVERSAL MONSTERS: FRANKENSTEIN

$3.95 U.S.,
$4.95 Canada
48 painted pages,
squarebound,
painted cover

Shipping June 22, 1993.

The first in our series of prestigious adaptations of the classic Universal Monster films, Frankenstein is a squarebound, fully painted, 48 page one-shot, faithfully adapting the groundbreaking film. Taken directly from the screenplay, this is destined to be a film buff's classic some time, as Den Beauvais brings your attack of the Monsters of all monsters to the comics page!

Adapted and painted by: **Den Beauvais** (*Aliens: Book Two*)
Painted cover by: **Den Beauvais**

REDBLADE™

REDBLADE #3 (OF 3)

Advisory: Suggested for mature readers.

$2.50 U.S., $3.15 Canada.
32 color pages, color cover.

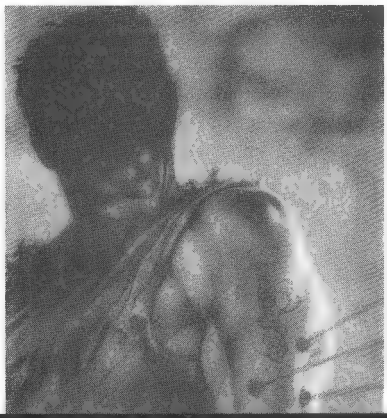
Shipping June 22, 1993.

Creator Vince Giarrano pulls out all the stops in the cataclysmic conclusion of *Redblade*. It's the final showdown between Redblade and the demon Engetsu, but first Redblade and his friends Vena and Tull have another foe to face: the out of control, living weapons factory monster created by Engetsu! Take a deep breath before reading this one, because there are no rest stops until the end!

Written, pencilled, and inked by: **Vince Giarrano** (*The Terminator: The Enemy Within*)

Color cover by: **Vince Giarrano**

PREDATOR™ RACE WAR



PREDATOR: RACE WAR #3 (OF 4)

Advisory: Suggested for mature readers.

$2.50 U.S., $3.15 Canada.
32 color pages, painted cover.

Monthly. Shipping July 6, 1993.

Cross is closing in on the Predator inside Paloverde State Penetentiary, but what he finds is even more than he bargained for! Action behind bars in the penultimate chapter of the hardest-hitting *Predator* series yet!

Written by: **Andrew Vachss** (*Hard Looks, Another Chance to Get It Right*) and **Randy Stradley** (*Aliens vs. Predator*)
Pencilled by: **Lauchland Pelle**
Inked by: **Rick Bryant**
Painted cover by: **Dave Dorman**

CLASSIC STAR WARS®

...BUT HE ONLY APPEARS *STUNNED*.. PERHAPS A SLIGHT CONCUSSION FROM THE FLYING DEBRIS.
AH...SEE? HE'S COMING AROUND.
TH-THAT VOICE ...*KNOW* ...THAT VOICE...

$2.50 U.S.,
$3.15 Canada.
32 color pages,
color cover.

Shipping July 6, 1993.

CLASSIC STAR WARS #10

Following the frightening threat of the Night Beast, Luke and inadvertant stowaway Threepio travel to the desert world of Aridus — ostensibly to ensure the continuation of the Rebel Alliance's weapons-smuggling operation there. But Luke is *more* interested in checking out rumors of a mysterious stranger who's appeared on Aridus claiming to be... Ben Kenobi!

Dark Horse's popular *Classic Star Wars* series is based on the fondly remembered 1980s newspaper strips. The original strips have been painstakingly reformatted into fully-colored comic-book stories. This material is being presented completely in color for the first time ever, and the interior art has been revised to fit comic-book dimensions. Additional art is by Allen Nunis.

Written by: **Archie Goodwin**
Illustrated by: **Al Williamson** with **Allen Nunis**
Colored by: **Steve Buccellato**
Color cover by: **Al Williamson**

John Byrne's NEXT MEN

Advisory: Suggested for mature readers.

$2.50 U.S., $3.15 Canada. 32 color pages, photo cover.

Monthly. Shipping June 8, 1993.

Danny's hopes for help and training from the incredible Action Maxx™ are dashed when he visits Dollar Comics and learns the crushing reality behind his hero's "true" adventures. Meanwhile, the Next Men have caught up with Danny, only to find that the world has learned the truth about *their* existence! In the M4 back-up feature, Mark is reunited with his... family.

John Byrne and Andréa Braun Byrne teamed up to create the exceptional photo collage that graces the cover of this issue!

Created, written, and illustrated by: **John Byrne**
Colored by. **Matt Webb**
Photo-based by **Andréa Braun Byrne** and **John Byrne**

GRENDEL

war child

48-PAGE MINISERIES FINALE!

Advisory: Suggested for mature readers. This issue contains violence, some nudity, and harsh language.

$3.50 U.S., $4.40 Canada.
48 color pages, painted wraparound cover.

Shipping June 8, 1993.

GRENDEL: WAR CHILD #10 (OF 10)

This is the big one: a story so powerful, Matt Wagner had to double the issue size just to tell it! In this special 48-page issue, we learn the final fate of Jupiter and Grendel-Prime, as Jupiter is reunited with his sister and together they take on the corrupt government headed by their mother. Wagner not only writes, pencils, and inks this final issue, he also provides a spectacular wraparound cover painting.

While this series has ended, Grendel lives on! Look for *Grendel: Devil by the Deed* in July and the first issue of *Grendel Tales* in August. Vivat Grendel!

Written, pencilled, and inked by: **Matt Wagner**
Layout art by: **Patrick McEown**
Colored by: **Bernie Mireault** and **Kathryn Delaney**
Painted wraparound cover by: **Matt Wagner**

STAR WARS
TALES OF THE JEDI
ULIC QEL-DROMA AND THE BEAST-WARS OF ONDERON
Part Four of Six
JEDI MASTER ARCA JEITH TEACHES HIS THREE APPRENTICES, ULIC AND CAY QEL-DROMA AND TOTT DONEETA. HE RELATES HOW THE PEOPLE OF ONDERON FOUND THEMSELVES IN AN ENDLESS WAR.
EONS PASSED. TRIBAL CULTURE EVOLVED INTO TRUE CIVILIZATION.
THANKS TO THE MONSTROUS SPECIES FROM THE DXUN MOON, ONDERON CIVILIZATION DEVELOPED IN THE FORM OF ONE GREAT WALLED CITY...
"...A CITY THAT GRADUALLY GREW, OVER THE CENTURIES, TO BECOME A VAST SPRAWLING FORTRESS PROTECTING SEVERAL MILLION INHABITANTS...

By **Tom Veitch**, **Chris Gossett**, and **Mike Barreiro**

"... EVENTUALLY THE CITY COVERED AN AREA A THOUSAND MILES SQUARE AND REACHED SEVERAL MILES INTO THE PLANET'S CRUST.
"EVERYTHING BEYOND THOSE WALLS--INDEED, THE REST OF THE PLANET--WAS A SAVAGE OUTLAND WHERE PRIMITIVE VIOLENCE RULED.
"DURING THE AGES IT BECAME THE ONDERONIANS' CUSTOM TO CAST OUT THE GREAT CITY'S LAWBREAKERS INTO THE WILDERNESS--
"AT FIRST THE DXUN MONSTERS PROVIDED QUICK AND EFFICIENT EXECUTION FOR THE ONDERON OUTCASTS...
"BUT AS THE PRACTICE CONTINUED THERE WERE UNFORESEEN CONSEQUENCE FOR THE WALLED CITY OF ONDERON."
NEXT: BEAST LORDS OF ONDERON!

THE BLUE LILY™

Advisory: Suggested for mature readers. This issue contains some nudity.

$3.95 U.S., $4.95 Canada. 48 color pages (no ads!), saddle-stitched deluxe format, painted cover.

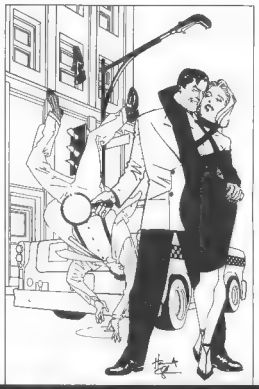
Shipping July 6, 1993.

THE BLUE LILY #4 (OF 4)

This is it! The final chapter! The big showdown! The convoluted conclusion to this hardboiled whodunnit! In his quest to uncover the secret of digital creation, robot detective Rusty Spade has uncovered some extremely *juicy* secrets involving heads of government and finance. On top of that, the original object of his search — his client's husband — has turned up dead, and Rusty knows exactly who killed him. Unfortunately, now that Rusty's got it all figured out, everyone wants *him* dead!

Written and illustrated by: **Angus McKie** (*Heavy Metal*)
Painted cover by: **Angus McKie**

ACCIDENT MAN™



Advisory: Suggested for mature readers. Contains sexual situations and harsh language.

$2.50 U.S., $3.15 Canada. 32 B&W pages, color cover.

Monthly. Shipping June 8, 1993.

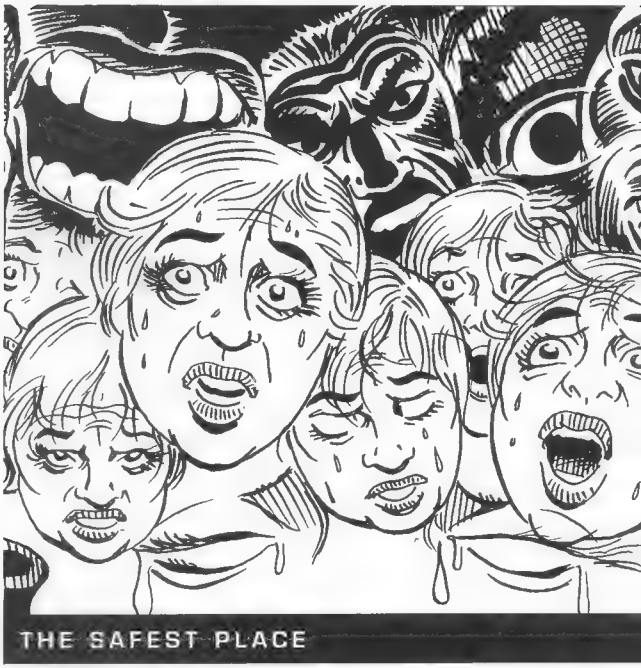
ACCIDENT MAN #2 (OF 3)

His name's Fallon, Mike Fallon, a ladies' man, a hit man, but more to the point, an Accident Man, who can fix your problems discreetly and permanently. Now he's out to make an impression on the mafia and passes his test with flying colors, most of it blood red. But there's more to this set-up than meets the eye.

Created and written by: **Pat Mills** (*Marshal Law*) and **Tony Skinner**
Illustrated by: **Duke Mighten**
Color cover by: **Howard Chaykin** (*American Flagg, Blackhawk*)

THE SAFEST PLACE...

Steve Ditko ©93



Readers' note:
The Safest Place
is Steve Ditko's first project for Dark Horse Comics!

$2.50 U.S.,
$3.15 Canada.
32 color pages,
color cover.

Shipping June 29, 1993.

Have you wondered whatever happened to the co-creator of Spider-Man and Dr. Strange, or the artistic genius behind The Creeper and Mr. A? New fans will join those who've followed Steve Ditko's illustrious career from the beginning in welcoming a Dark Horse one-shot, *The Safest Place*. *The Safest Place* has it all — great storytelling, mystery and intrigue, tempers and torture, and — best of all — art that helped set the standard for an entire comics generation!

Written and illustrated by: **Steve Ditko**
Color cover by: **Steve Ditko**

DHP

DARK HORSE PRESENTS

"Sovay"

Written by: **Charles DeLint**
Illustrated by: **Charles Vess**

The Chairman

Written by: **Charles Moore**
Illustrated by: **Andrew Robinson**

"The Madwoman of the Sacred Heart"

Written by: **Alexandro Jodorowsky**
Illustrated by: **Moebius**

Painted cover by: **Charles Vess**

Advisory: Suggested for mature readers. Confains sexual situations, nudity, and possibly controversial religious themes.

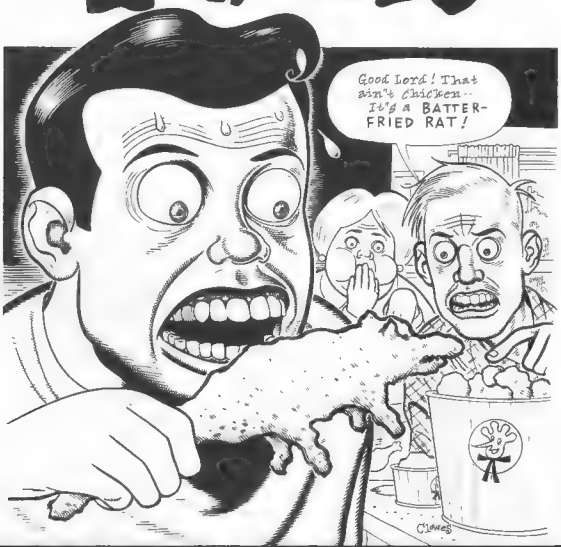
$2.25 U.S., $2.80 Canada.
32 B&W pages, painted cover.

Monthly. Shipping June 15, 1993.

DARK HORSE PRESENTS #75

Fantasy/science fiction author Charles DeLint teams up with comics artist extraordinaire Charles Vess for a little period piece entitled "Sovay." Stand and deliver! Also: Charles Moore and Andrew Robinson send The Chairman on a trip to purchase a distant planet. All in a day's work for this galaxy-trotting executive, deadly ambush by rival companies included. Plus, the penultimate chapter of "The Madwoman of the Sacred Heart," by acclaimed film director Alexandro Jodorowsky and Moebius.

URBAN LEGENDS™



URBAN LEGENDS #1 (OF 2)

Advisory: Suggested for mature readers.

$2.95 U.S., $3.70 Canada.
32 B&W pages, saddle-stitched deluxe format, color cover.

Shipping June 8, 1993.

This talent-packed humor anthology brings to life all of those gloriously twisted tales that could only have happened to your sister's boyfriend's brother! Thrill to the adventures of the Microwave Baby, the Mexican Pet, and the Stolen Kidney in this bizarre collection of all-new material assembling what's got to be the widest array of the medium's finest storytellers... ever! Contributors include: Peter Bagge, Paul Guinan, Mitch O'Connell, Scott Musgrove, Richard Sala, Alex Wald, Ivan Brunetti, Sung Koo, Dan Clowes (cover), Paul Nitsche, Lenin Delsol, Carole Sobocinski, Matt Wagner, Mike Allred, Terry LaBan. Bernie Mireault, Hilary Barta, Warren Prindle, Bill Reinhold, Gary Leib, Mark Ricketts, Stewart Grais, Evan Dorkin, John Kurtz, and Arthur Adams! You'll laugh so hard your rib cage will pierce your body cavity!

Written and illustrated by: **Peter Bagge** (*Hate*), **Arthur Adams** (*Godzilla*), **Matt Wagner** (*Grendel*), **Mike Allred** (*Madman*), **Evan Dorkin** (*Milk & Cheese*), **Terry LaBan** (*CUD*), **Richard Sala** (*Thirteen O'Clock*), and others

Color cover by: **Dan Clowes** (*Eightball*)

CHEVAL noir

"Randy the Skeleton"
Written by: **Aidan Potts**
Illustrated by: **Ian Carney**

"Sylvia"
Written and illustrated by: **Nicole Hollander**

"Stan Pulsar"
Written and illustrated by: **Cailleteau** & **Vatine**

"Suburban Nightmares: Secrets," Part 2 of 5
Created by: **Michael Cherkas**, **Larry Hancock**, and **John van Bruggen**
Script by: **Larry Hancock**
Pencilled and inked by: **Michael Cherkas**
Inked by: **John van Bruggen**

"Demon," Part 4 of 5
Written and illustrated by: **Masashi Tanaka**

Painted cover by: **Eric Shanower** (*The Blue Witch of Oz*)

RANDY HANDS THE ORPHANS TO HERR KEHNENFOGLE, BALIFF TO THE CROWN.
THANK YOU MISTER SKELETON. AT THIS TIME OF RECESSION BAD DEBTERS SHOULD BE DEALT WITH AS HARSHLY AS POSSIBLE.

Advisory: Suggested for mature readers.

$2.95 U.S., $3.70 Canada.
32 B&W pages, painted cover.

Monthly. Shipping June 8, 1993.

CHEVAL NOIR #43

Die-hard fans and newcomers alike take note: "Randy the Skeleton," by Aidan Potts and Ian Carney, debuts this issue, as Randy — dedicated hedonist and fervent collector of "hyperkitsch" — teaches the orphans a lesson in "TV Shoplifting"! Nicole Hollander's "Sylvia" reveals an unexpected admissions requirement for heaven, while Cailleteau & Vatine's "Stan Pulsar" reappears with a no-holds-barred look at alien encounters and Rock 'n' Roll. Meanwhile, the Michael Cherkas, Larry Hancock, John van Bruggen classic, "Suburban Nightmares: Secrets," continues to weave its twisted tale of life in the '50s 'burbs; and Masashi Tanaka's "Demon" finds himself hunted from unexpected quarters.

TANK GIRL 2

TANK GIRL II #1 (OF 4)

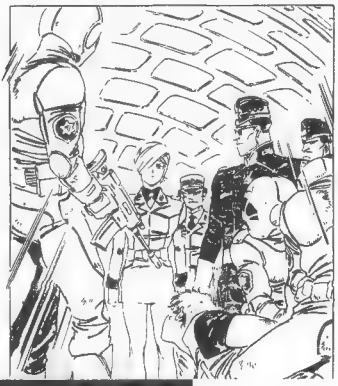
Tank Girl's back in a new four-issue miniseries, and this time she's nastier than ever. Remember her debut in the United States? She met the devil, drank a lot of beer, and snogged a kangaroo. But that was nothing. Now she has to spend an entire week at Bell's End, the Rest Home for the Socially Retarded. And no firearms allowed!

Advisory: Suggested for mature readers.

$2.50 U.S., $3.15 Canada.
32 B&W and painted color pages, color cover.

Monthly. Shipping June 22, 1993.

Written by: **Alan Martin**
Illustrated by: **Jamie Hewlett**
Color cover by. **Jamie Hewlett** and **Chris Chalenor**



THE VENUS WARS II #13

The consular palace explodes in a burst of flame as Rado's hidden bomb goes off. Matthew is on his way to hide out from Rado's faction when he hears of the rebellion. Suddenly, his car is stopped at gunpoint by the dreaded Security Police! Things are looking grim for the last hope of freedom on Venus!

$2.50 U.S., $3.15 Canada.
32 B&W pages, painted cover.

Monthly. Shipping June 8, 1993.

Written and illustrated by: **Yoshikazu Yasuhiko**
Translation by: **Alan Gleason** and **Toren Smith**
Painted cover by: **Dave Johnson** and **Brian Stelfreeze**

CARAVAN KIDD PART 2 #2

$2.50 U.S., $3.15 Canada.
32 B&W pages, painted cover.

Monthly. Shipping June 15, 1993.

Mian Toris and her reluctant servants Babo and Wataru are holed up in a backwater frontier town with creeping mold everywhere. When the mold plugs up the workings of her android body, Mian is helpless! Wataru gleefully decides to leave his master even as the relentless Hegelbard soldiers close in. Can Wataru find it in his heart to forgive her, and save the day?

Written and illustrated by: **Johji Manabe**
Translation by: **Dana Lewis** and **Toren Smith**
Painted cover by: **Johji Manabe**

DIRTY PAIR

THE DIRTY PAIR: SIM HELL #2 (OF 4)

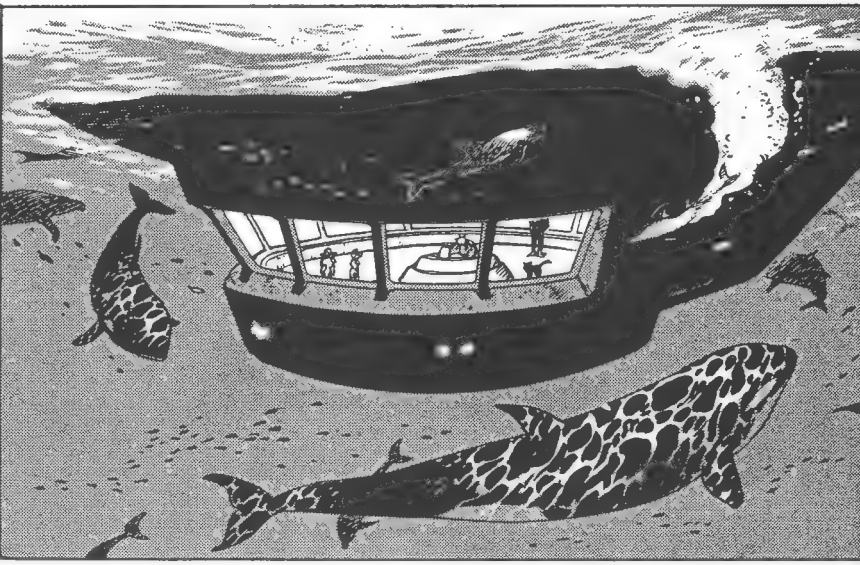
$2.50 U.S., $3.15 Canada.
32 B&W pages, painted cover.

Monthly. Shipping June 1, 1993.

The minds of Kei and Yuri are trapped inside a computer-generated combat simulation program, where all manner of horrific cybermonstrosities threaten the "Lovely Angels." Plunging from one nightmarish sim to the next, careening from the icy blackness of space to the murky depths of the ocean floor, the Angels must fight through each terrifying scenario to the end in hope that the simulation will end before they suffer severe neurological damage. But the virtual reality dangers are real enough to the minds of Kei and Yuri, and death in cyberspace is just as unpleasant as the genuine article! "Sim Hell" is science-fantasy at its most spectacular, featuring the jaw-dropping visuals and mind-blowing cyberpunk concepts of artist/writer Adam Warren.

Written, pencilled, and inked by: **Adam Warren**
Painted cover by: **Adam Warren**

VERSION™ 1.7



$2.50 U.S.,
$3.15 Canada.
32 B&W pages,
color cover.

Monthly. Shipping
June 15, 1993.

VERSION 1.7

A song at a frequency no human ear can hear is drawing marine mammals to Australia's great barrier reef. Could it be EGOS, the sentient biochip Hap and Eiko are tracking? As the *Death's Head* sails for the Capricorn channel to investigate, the sea grows more rough and dangerous. Is this due to natural forces, or is EGOS manipulating nature for its own unknowable ends?

Written and illustrated by: **Hisashi Sakaguchi**
Translation by: **Alan Gleason** and **Toren Smith**
Computer cover by: **Jack Harris**

ALIENS™

ADVANCE SOLICITATION!

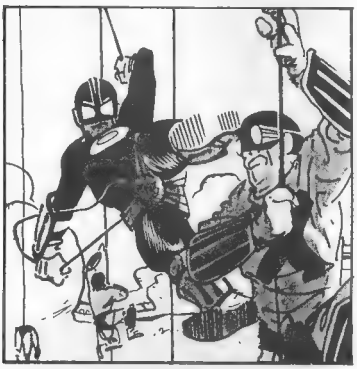
ALIENS II (TRADE PAPERBACK)
(THIRD PRINTING)

Breathtaking full-color airbrushed artwork from Den Beauvais makes this collection incredibly popular — enough so that every time we print this, we immediately sell out. A must for any completist, or any lover of gorgeous art and a great story.

Written by: **Mark Verheiden** (*The American*)
Illustrated by: **Den Beauvais** (*Predator*)
Painted cover by: **Den Beauvais**

$13.95 U.S.,
$17.45 Canada.
ISBN: 1-878574-96-5
112 painted color pages, squarebound, painted cover.

Shipping July 27, 1993.



DHP™
DARK HORSE PRESENTS

ADVANCE SOLICITATION!

THE BEST OF DARK HORSE PRESENTS VOLUME THREE (TRADE PAPERBACK)

$12.95 U.S.,
$16.20 Canada.
ISBN: 1-878574-81-7
144 B&W pages, squarebound, painted cover.

Shipping July 27, 1993.

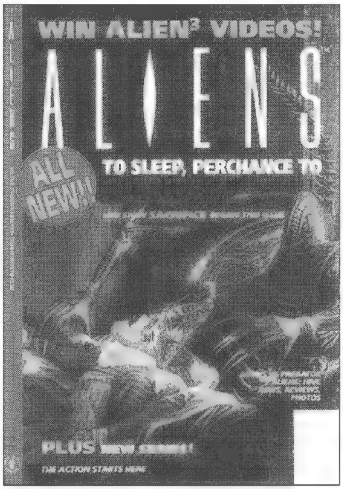
Nobody does it weirder! The first comic book Dark Horse produced was *Dark Horse Presents*, a black-and-white anthology featuring popular and new artists and writers. Now, six years later, it's still going strong — and just as wild as ever! In volume three of this continuing collection we look at some of the high spots from *DHP* issues 31-50. Here are twenty stories, including "Kings in Disguise," "The Aerialist," "Concrete," and "Heartbreakers," featuring artists and writers like Matt Wagner, Eddie Campbell, Rick Geary, Paul Chadwick, Ian Edginton, Anina Bennett, Paul Guinan, Adam Hughes, Karl Story, and many others.

Painted cover by: **Matt Wagner** (*Grendel: War Child*)

NEW TITLES FROM DARK HORSE INTERNATIONAL

Dark Horse International continues to bring you the best of Dark Horse U.S.'s licensed comics, together with all-new features and artwork exclusive to the British edition. The following monthly titles are available in June.

ALIENS VOLUME 2 #9 (U.K. EDITION)



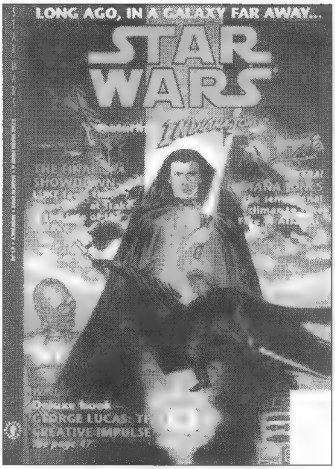
This very special new-look issue of *Aliens* contains a free mini-comic — *Aliens: Countdown* — collecting, for the first time anywhere, the *Aliens* story by fan favorites **Mike Richardson** and **Den Beauvais** from the pages of Dark Horse *Insider*. Then there's the start of a chilling, fully-painted new story, *Aliens: Sacrifice*, written by **Pete Milligan** (*Batman*) and illustrated by **Paul Johnson** (*Books of Magic*), wherein a mysterious village is terrorized by an Alien lurking in the woods and in the dreams of Ann McKay, the lone survivor of a dropship crash who stumbles on the hamlet and its terrified inhabitants. To top off this star-studded line-up we also present the first high-octane episode of *Aliens: Colonial Marines* by **Chris Warner**, **Paul Guinan**, and **Tony Akins**, as well as the nail-biting conclusion of *Aliens: Hive* by **Jerry Prosser** and **Kelley Jones**.

Plus the regular news round-up in "Motion Tracker," a look at the Colonial Marines in "Technical Readout," and the slugfest continues in *Aliens vs. Predator 2*.

$2.95 U.S., $3.70 Canada, £1.50 U.K.
48 color pages, magazine format, painted cover.

Monthly. Shipping June 22, 1993.

STAR WARS #6 (U.K. EDITION)

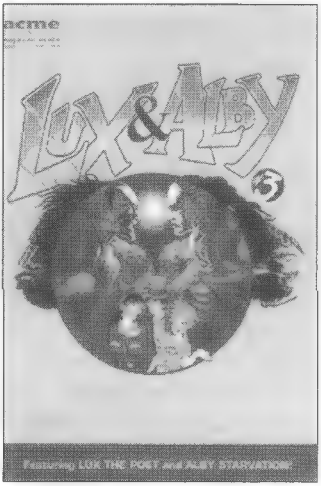


No *Star Wars* fan should miss this magazine which features the awesome conclusion of *Star Wars: Dark Empire* by **Tom Veitch** and **Cam Kennedy**, as Luke battles the rejuvenated emperor, with the fate of the universe and Luke's soul in the balance. Then there's the thrilling finale of *Indiana Jones: The Fate of Atlantis* by **William Messner-Loebs**, **Dan Barry**, and **Karl Kesel**, as the past fatally catches up with Indiana Jones and his Nazi nemeses. Painted cover by **Dave Dorman**.

All this, plus all the latest Lucasfilm and *Star Wars*-related news.

$2.95 U.S., $3.70 Canada, £1.50 U.K.
48 color pages, magazine format, painted cover.

Monthly. Shipping June 8, 1993.



LUX & ALBY #3 (OF 9)

Iskar's cosmic army gathers at the gates to Nirvana, and the Goddess Ishtar is powerless to prevent him invading the sacred realm. And back on Earth, everyone is starting to feel the effects. Ruby is plotting her revenge on Patrick, Lux can't get the hang of the Art of Zen Kissing, and Alby is being even more paranoid than usual. Even the pot plant is wilting. Surely things can get no worse? Read this issue and find out.

Advisory: Suggested for mature readers. This issue contains sexual situations, semi-nudity, and extremely bad karma.

$2.50 U.S., $3.15 Canada, £1.50 U.K.
32 B&W pages, painted cover.

Monthly. Shipping June 22, 1993.

THE HORSE'S MOUTH

10956 SE MAIN STREET, MILWAUKIE, OREGON 97222

Dear Dark Horse,

I have one short question, then I'll be out of your hair. I recently noticed *Grendel* [*War Child*] sitting on the shelf of my local comics shop. I picked it up and thumbed through it. The artwork was great! The action was great!! The story was great!!! Then why didn't I buy it? Because it was already on issue #8. I hate to start collecting in the middle of a story, and since it only goes to #10, I really missed out. It would be difficult for me to get all of the issues I missed, so is there any chance that this *Grendel* series will be reprinted in a trade paperback??

Gerimi Burleigh
Upland, CA

P.S. I am rapidly becoming a manga fanatic. How can I get my hands on *Appleseed* volume #1, 2, and 3? I know that #4 is about to be released.
P.P.S. I loved *Propellerman* #1.

Good news, Gerimi — you can expect to see the Grendel: War Child *trade paperback out by the end of this year. The softcover book will collect all ten issues of the series, according to editor Kij Johnson. Other features will include an introduction by* Grendel *creator Matt Wagner, and a gallery section of pin-up art from some of the hottest comics artists in the business. Plus, Wagner will provide an all-new painted cover!*

While we're on the subject, Grendel *fans will be happy to learn that* Grendel: Devil by the Deed *is coming from Dark Horse in July. Originally published by Comico in 1988, the Dark Horse one-shot will boast newly recolored pages in a deluxe saddle-stitched format. Check out next month's* Insider *#19 for more details.*

And in August you can look forward to the beginning of Grendel Tales: Four Devils, One Hell. *The six-issue series showcases the writing talents of James Robinson (*The Terminator: Endgame*) and the hand-painted interiors of artist Teddy H. Kristiansen. Matt Wagner collaborates with Kristiansen on all six sensational covers. You'll hear more about* Grendel Tales *in* Insider *#20.*

As for getting your hands on Appleseed *volumes #1, #2, and #3, your best bet would be to have your comics retailer order them for you, or get them through a comics mail-order firm. At this time they're not available through Dark Horse.*

*The following letter comes from Chris Low in merry olde England. Chris, as you may recall, sent in a truly spectacular drawing of various Dark Horse characters which inspired the "Name That 'Toon" contest (*Insider *#14). He's had some success with his drawings, as well as some disappointments, and he sends us these pointers on how to handle the latter.*

Hi Kris,

I would like to address a subject I have yet to see raised in your letters page: submissions failure. Here's an open letter to all submission failures (of which I am now one!).

If, like me, you got all the relevant information, got yourself five or six pages of work together, sent them off, waited (while waiting began to fantasize about being world famous), waited some more (the fantasies growing more convincing), and then, at the peak of creative flamboyance, you got the dreaded reply (or if it might be happening to you soon), then this is for you.

For years friends and relatives have said, "Hey! You're really good! You should be published!" People approached me asking for artwork for local events, leaflets, decorating the odd wall or two, flyers for local bands, etc. Sound familiar yet? All this work is good for the ol' ego, but it can cloud a lesser mortal's judgment. You might think, "Wow, this is all so easy! I think I'll become a professional comics artist! Now who can I work for? Hmmm... Marvel? Nah! Politically unsound... DC? Nah! Warner Communications sounds too official... How about Dark Horse? Yes! That's the answer — they're a growing company, they'll have new series for me to work on, and I've heard good things about them. My new employer, Dark Horse!" I'm not saying that being positive is a bad thing, but it must be balanced with realism, 'cause when that rejection letter drops into your life it's gonna hurt! It doesn't say anything nasty, but it still hurts. You have failed. But you're not alone — I failed too! There are thousands of us, just ask the submissions editor! So in an attempt to lessen your pain I have written my Submission Failure Guidelines:

1) Do not expect a reply too quickly. It states in the guidelines "usually within two weeks." But I think four to six weeks is a more realistic time scale, considering the amount of work Dark Horse must have been receiving lately.

2) Always expect the worst. (Delusion does not help.)

3) When *that* reply comes back try not to feel disappointed or angry. Take another look and reassess your submission. Be your own harshest critic.

4) Do not despair!

5) If you're still feeling down, draw something to brighten your spirits (it works!).

6) Think about getting into comics from another direction. Local small press newspapers or what's-on guides often publish comics in their pages.

7) Write down the ten artists you would most like to emulate. Now find out their respective ages. I bet most, if not all of them have at least ten years seniority over you. That means ten more learning years.

8) Practice, practice, practice. I believe Berni Wrightson advocates drawing the same thing 10,000 times, so you can understand it properly.

9) Try again. Submit as many times as you like.

10) You can be a comics artist NOW! Draw yourself a comic, get it photocopied, staple it all together, get out there and sell it. Instant gratification! Dark Horse is really not the be-all and end-all of comic books [*We're* not? — *K.*]. Go for it on your own. Have fun.

Good luck with future *Insider*s, Kris. I think the idea of opening it up as a forum for us fans to rant and rave is an excellent idea. May the *Insider* always be popular and always be free!

Cheers!
Chris Low
Moulsecoomb, East Sussex, England

Thanks for sharing those words of wisdom, Chris. However, I don't really care for the word 'failure.' I prefer to think in terms of 'success in progress.' Key words of advice in your guidelines are 'practice,' 'try again,' and 'have fun.' Good luck!

Dear Insiders:

A comment, a request, some suggestions, an observation, and a contest entry.

Comment: Well, you could have knocked me over with Godzilla's tail (the analogy will make sense further on) when I read in the *Insider* #14 that I had won the "Dr. Giggles' Caption Contest" (and my wife said I didn't stand a chance — hah!!). Although I haven't received my $500 yet, (okay, my pin and autographed book), I certainly enjoyed my 5 minutes of fame at the local comics shop.

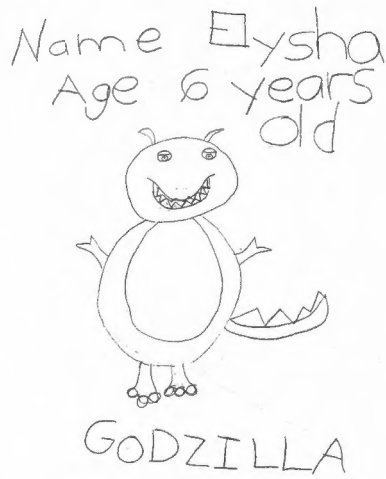
Request: I have collected the *Insider* faithfully since its inception (hey, it's free — I'm no fool). However, no one in my area ever saw *Insider* #13. Did you skip an issue? Misnumber? Can I get a copy via back order?

Suggestions: The *Insider* is getting better. Still needs more detailed information on upcoming releases. Also, how about an expanded future projects column? And "The Horse's Mouth" definitely needs more pages.

Observation: So, Dark Horse is about to enter the superhero arena. Good luck, you're going to need it. With every publisher coming out with their version of the '90s superhero, I expect better than the best from Dark Horse.

Contest entry: Being extremely envious of her Dad for winning the Dr. Giggles contest, my 6-year-old daughter, Elysha, has decided to try and win the Dark Horse Manga contest. Her rendition of Godzilla (see, I told you the analogy would eventually make sense) is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,
Steven Pearlman
Elysha Pearlman
Verona, NJ



This charming rendition of Godzilla was submitted to the "Manga Art Contest" by Elysha Pearlman, our youngest entrant. The winning entry can be seen on pg. 32 in our Photo Finish feature. Other impressive entries will be showcased in future issues of the *Insider*.

Thanks for the letter, Steven, and a round of applause (hear it?) to budding artist Elysha for her drawing of Godzilla. Looks like Insider *contests have turned into a family affair for the Pearlmans!*

To respond to your comment, by the time this column sees print, you should have your "Dr. Giggles Caption Contest" prize. The books are out for signature now. I'm glad you enjoyed your 5 minutes of fame... if Andy Warhol is correct, you should still have 10 minutes to go!

Normally I can't answer all requests for missing issues of the Insider, *but since you have some Dark Horse goodies coming your way as a thank you for writing (one of the perks of being published) one of those goodies is a copy of* Insider *#13. I'm not sure why you couldn't find it at your local comics shop. They say that 13 is an unlucky number, and a problem* did *occur when this issue was published — a mistake at the printers.* ***[Contest Alert! I'll send a set of Dark Horse posters to the first 25 readers who can spot the error in issue #13. Send your answer to "Unlucky 13 Contest," c/o Dark Horse Comics, 10956 SE Main St., Milwaukie, OR 97222.]***

Yes, Dark Horse is entering the superhero arena — as a heavyweight contender! Check out the feature articles in this issue on Comics' Greatest World *and read all about the first environment in that universe: Arcadia. I think you'll agree that this isn't "just another superhero series"! You can continue to expect better than the best from Dark Horse.*

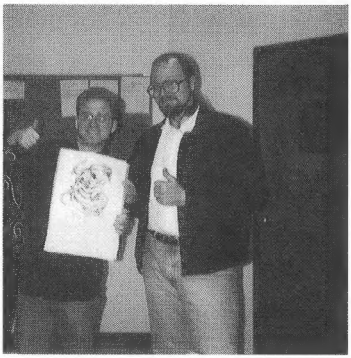
Keep reading!
Kris Young

PHOTO FINISH

OMEDETO GOZAIMASU!

That's Japanese for CONGRATULATIONS — to the winners of Dark Horse's recent manga art contest (see *Insider* #15). First prize goes to Chris Grun of Excelsior, MN for a great rendition of Susano, a character from Masamune Shirow's *Orion*. Chris will receive a copy of *Intron Depot*, which is not only signed by Masamune Shirow, but also includes an original drawing by the artist on the endpaper! (A special Dark Horse thank you goes to Mr. Shirow for that added surprise.)

Second prize, a month's worth of manga comic books from Dark Horse Comics, goes to Elizabeth Hurlbut of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, for her SD (Super-Deformed) interpretation of the *Outlanders* crew. Her drawing, as well as other impressive entries, will be published in upcoming issues of the *Insider*. Watch for them!



Pictured left to right, manga mavens John Weeks and Toren Smith give two thumbs up for the winning entry.

Response to this contest was amazing (so much so that we may have to make this an annual event!). The field of entrants was narrowed down to sixteen finalists. Judges on the panel were Dark Horse manga editor John Weeks, and from our marketing department, Heather Gridley and yours truly, Kris Young. We were also honored and pleased to include Toren Smith from Studio Proteus. Toren was kind enough to cut some time out of his busy schedule during his visit to Dark Horse to add his expertise to the panel. Thanks, Toren!

Honorable mentions go to: Paul H. Way, Harlingen, TX; Chris Low, Moulsecoomb, East Sussex, England; John Ridley, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada; D. K. Dang, Glendale, CA; Jack Furlong, Largo, FL; Rich Schleifer, Bellevue, WA; Eric Bombardt, Colorado Springs, CO; David Gutierrez, Carson, CA; Ron Fontes, Phippsburg, ME; Jonas Nelson, Stockholm, Sweden; Marco Antonio Velasquez III, Pomona, CA; Su-Ann Chiranakorn, Winthrop, Perth, Western Australia; Adrian Fleming, Manhattan, KS; and Elysha Pearlman, Verona, NJ (who has the distinction of being our youngest entrant!).

A big thanks and a Dark Horse tattoo go out to everyone who entered the contest. It's rather humbling to see how much talent is out there.

And the winning entry is... Susano from Shirow's *Orion*, drawn by Chris Grun.

INSIDE OUT

SHIPPING JULY 13

Accident Man #3
Aliens Volume 2 #10 (U.K. edition)
Aliens/Predator:
The Deadliest of the Species #1
American Splendor #17
Cheval Noir #44
Dark Horse Presents #76
The Dirty Pair: Sim Hell #3
Golden City — Week 1: Rebel
John Byrne's Next Men #16
Lux & Alby #4
Propellerman #4
The Venus Wars II #14

SHIPPING JULY 20

Caravan Kidd Part 2 #3
Golden City — Week 2: Mecha
Grendel: Devil by the Deed
Hard Looks #9
RoboCop 3 #1
Star Wars #7 (U.K. edition)
Tank Girl II #2
Version #1.8

SHIPPING JULY 27

Aliens: Rogue #4
Dark Horse Comics #11
Dark Horse Insider #21
The Eudaemon #1
Golden City — Week 3: Titan
Nexus Figurine
Orion #6

SHIPPING AUGUST 3

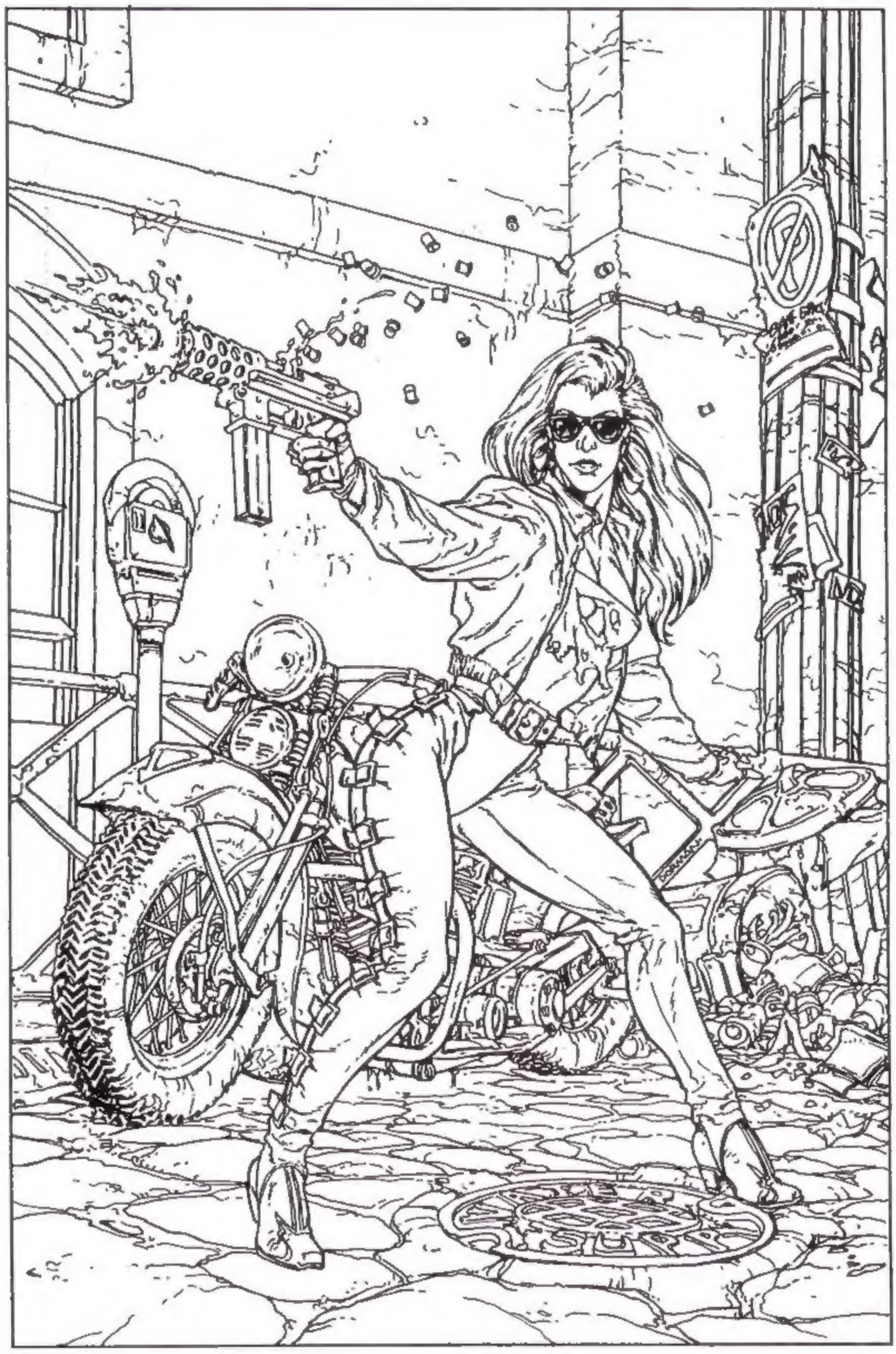
Classic Star Wars #11
Golden City — Week 4: Catalyst

SHIPPING AUGUST 31

Nexus Book Two
(trade paperback collection)
The Venus Wars Volume One
(trade paperback collection)

COMING IN AUGUST

STEEL HARBOR — WEEK ONE: BARB WIRE
COVER ART BY
DAVE DORMAN



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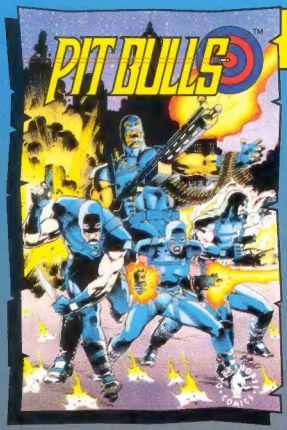

PITBULLS!
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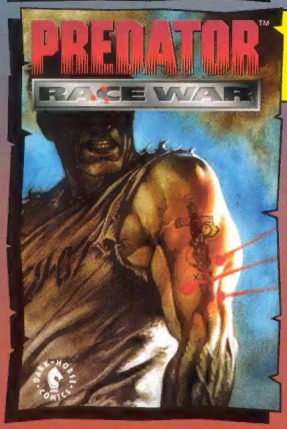
GHOST!
PAGE 6



PREDATOR: RACE WAR #3!
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DARK HORSE COMICS

UNIVERSAL MONSTERS: FRANKENSTEIN!
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ALIENS: ROGUE #3!
PAGE 10

THE BLUE LILY #4!
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THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!™